

**CITY OF SIERRA VISTA**  
**COMMISSION ON CULTURAL DIVERSITY**  
**Regular Meeting of May 23, 2016**  
Oscar Yrun Community Center, Conference Room  
3020 E. Tacoma St., Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

**CALL TO ORDER**

Gail Houston called the meeting of the Commission on Cultural Diversity to order at 5:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT:      Gail Houston              Shaundra Sanders  
                                 Sigrid Limtiaco          Lauri Owen  
                                 Frances Micheau

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:      Chrysti Lassiter-Jones

STAFF LIAISON PRESENT:      Lee Elaban

COUNCIL LIAISON PRESENT:      Gwen Calhoun

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:      Debbie Aponte  
                                 Charles Moses

OTHERS PRESENT:              Vera Gates-Williams, guest  
                                 Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert, guest

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA**

Shaundra made a motion to accept the agenda as written.

Sigrid seconded the motion.

VOTE:                      UNANIMOUS

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF March 28, 2015**

Sigrid made a motion to accept the minutes as written.

Frances seconded the motion.

VOTE:                      UNANIMOUS

**STAFF LIAISON'S REPORT**

The City budget is still in process.

The District invoice was received for the Cultural Heritage Celebration at Buena High School. The City has to pay for the facility usage and personnel costs incurred throughout the event. Leftover raffle monies will go to help offset the cost of the event.

The people the Commission hired for the Heritage Event have been paid.

The Commission earnings do have to be spent prior to the end of the fiscal year, June 30.

## **COUNCIL LIAISON'S REPORT**

Budget cuts are happening in all departments for the City.

Please voice concerns about Commission processes to be included when the Council sets the expectations for the Citizens Advisory Commission (CAC). Any questions, concerns, or conversation about the Commission should be included in the recommendations to the CAC. The CAC is made up of the Council Member's chosen assistants; they will be reviewing the different Commissions, may be attending meetings and then making recommendations to the Council. They will try to bring together the way the Commissions operate, clarify certain topics, and try to establish consistency across Commissions. The process should take place after the budget, toward the end of July. CAC members should be invited to the next Meet & Greet.

Some of King's Court has been sold to a builder. They are building a new apartment complex, and refurbishing some of the courts.

## **CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS/REPORT**

Thank you to Shaudra Saunders for running the April Commission meeting and Commission Meet & Greet in April while Gail Houston was out of town.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Applications for the Commission: discussion and vote**

- a. No new applications for the Commission
- b. Commissions apps come to the department and go into the Commission packet
- c. Associate members do not need to be approved by Council

### **2. Discussion of future Cultural events, including BHS**

- a. Buena High School had a Middle Eastern Cultural Event in May.
  - i. Mr. Monsiour (a BHS teacher) performed and prepared food
  - ii. Performance from Cochise College – Belly Dancing
- b. Buena High School had an Asian Cultural Event in May
  - i. Very highly attended

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. Discussion of Annual Heritage Fair**

- a. Sales of wares will not be permitted
- b. Surveys about the Heritage Celebration
  - i. The overall experience was rated as 'great' & 'very good'
  - ii. The best parts were the food, entertainment, and learning about the different cultures
  - iii. Things that could make it better were better sound, more food, and more countries
  - iv. People heard about it through the Sierra Vista Herald, word of mouth, and FaceBook
  - v. People were residents of Sierra Vista, Hereford, and Sonoita

## **2. Christmas Around the World**

- a. Event held at a different time than the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony
  - i. Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>
- b. Countries from the Heritage Fair should be invited to participate
- c. The event could be held in Veteran's Memorial Park in the same area where the Farmer's Market is set up, with 2 rows, and flood lighting
  - i. Layout to be presented at the June meeting
- d. Participants could be provided a space and could bring tents
  - i. Countries will not be charged a fee
  - ii. Vendors could be charged a fee as a potential fundraiser
- e. Information put out August, end of July
- f. Formal invitations could be sent out
- g. Advertisement for Cultural Diversity events should branch out
  - i. Local tourism groups, County-wide Chambers, Bisbee City offices, radio, AAA (maybe go through Judy Hector), SSVEC, Tempo, Sierra Vista Herald

## **3. Discussion of future Commission Meet & Greet**

- a. Held quarterly, and postpone to a time after the venue is open
- b. Different Commissions could host future Meet & Greet
- c. August for next Meet & Greet

## **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Debbie – advertise for events and get the word out in additional formats, maybe flyers at local businesses

Susanne – attended the April Meet & Greet, thought it was awesome and made some contacts. The Sister Cities Commission is interested in collaborating for Christmas around the World, and potentially being a food vendor for fundraising.

Vera – Has a background in the entertainment business and is excited about Cultural Diversity events. Social media is a huge outlet for getting the word out. The billboard at Apache Middle School could be utilized for advertising upcoming events. Posters could be placed in different areas around the community.

## **CALL TO THE COMMISSION**

Frances – A lot of people go to the different events for the food, and so a variety of different food vendors could help bring people out to the event.

Sigrid – Happy that Susanne attended the meeting and excited to collaborate with the Sister Cities Commission.

Lauri – Would like to work with Mexico and potentially China for the event.

Shaundra – Would like a Christmas around the World subcommittee to be formed and potentially start meeting after the regular June Commission meeting. They would be able to get information out to Commissions. Would like to use the Apache marquee, and posters similar to the big ones used for the Cultural Heritage Celebration posters. Food vendors would have to pass an inspection by the Cochise County Health Department in order to participate as a food vendor at the Christmas around the World event.

Council Member Gwen Calhoun wanted the Commissioners to think about possibly having cultural heritage presentations at future Commission meetings. Gwen suggested having someone scheduled to present on a specific culture at the meeting and putting an advertisement out about the presentation at the meeting to potentially get more people to attend the meetings. Getting the word out about the Commission, and educating people about different cultures around the world, we could potentially get Tradoc involved.

Frances will not be able to make the June meeting but would like to be a part of the subcommittee formed for the Christmas around the World event.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gail Houston", is written over a horizontal line.

Gail Houston

Chairperson, Commission on Cultural Diversity